



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State

To: Potential 2016 Qualified Political Party

From: Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State

Thank you for your inquiry about qualifying a political party for the 2016 election cycle.

Please see below information about qualifying a political party.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State, Elections and Government Services at (406) 444-5346 or soselections@mt.gov or visit our website at sos.mt.gov.

You may also wish to contact the Commissioner of Political Practices at (406) 444-2942 for campaign finance information.

Links: [Political Party Qualification Petition](#)
[Affidavit of Signature Gatherer](#)
[Title 13 Election Laws](#)



Information for Political Party Qualification
Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch
Elections and Government Services
soselections@mt.gov • sos.mt.gov

♦ **Filing Deadlines** ([13-10-601](#), MCA)

- March 7, 2016 Deadline to submit signed party qualification petitions to county election administrators.
- March 14, 2016 Deadline for candidates to file Declaration and Oath of Candidacy, and pay filing fee (unless indigent) with appropriate filing officer

♦ **Signature Requirements** ([13-10-601](#), MCA)

- According to [13-10-601](#), MCA, the number of signatures required for ballot access is 5,000, which must include the registered voters in at least 34 of the House districts equal to 5% or more of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for governor at the last general election in those districts (*or 150 electors in those districts, whichever is less*).
 - ✓ The number of signatures required in each House district is 119. This number is required in at least 34 House districts.

♦ **Other Information**

- A current list of qualified political parties is at sos.mt.gov/Elections/Parties.
- While there is no earliest date to submit party qualification petition signatures to county election administrators, the candidate declaration form cannot be filed with the appropriate filing officer before January 14, 2016.
- If the party qualifies for ballot access, the deadline by which party candidates must file their filing form with the required filing fee is March 14, 2016. See [13-10-201](#), MCA. A candidate who files as an indigent candidate is not required to pay the filing fee, but must file petition signatures.
- Under [13-10-602](#), MCA, a political party and its regularly nominated candidates, members, and officers have the sole and exclusive right to the use of the party name. A candidate for office may not use any word of the name of any other political party or organization other than that by which the candidate is nominated.